

# **NOAA Fisheries**

**National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce**



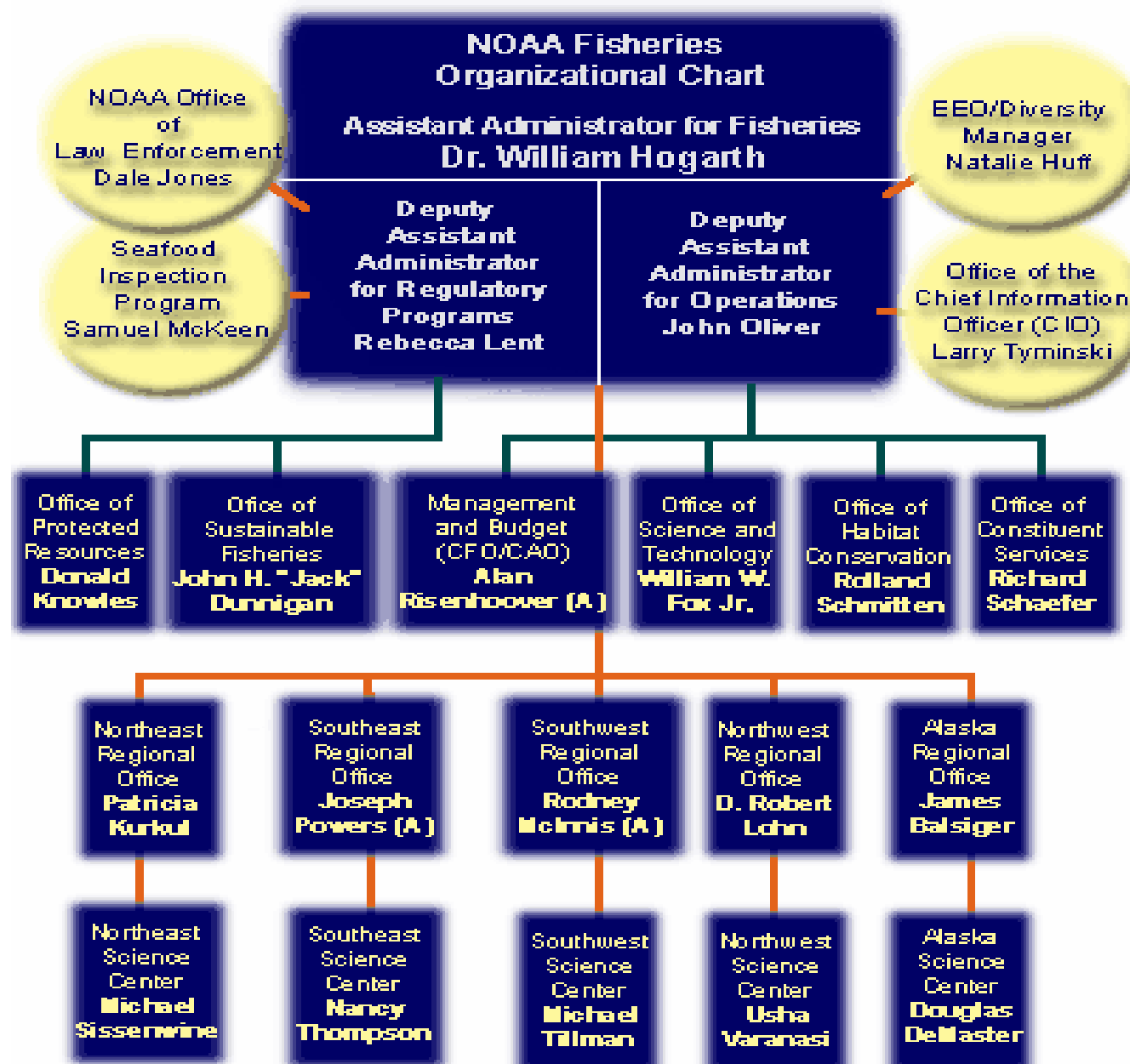


# Mission



**Stewardship of living marine resources  
for the benefit of the Nation through  
their science-based conservation and  
management and promotion of the health  
of their environment.**







## Alaska Region

Regional Office: Juneau, AK  
Science Center: Seattle, WA (Sand Point)

### Laboratories

Seattle, WA  
Auke Bay, AK  
Kodiak, AK

## Northeast Region

Regional Office: Gloucester, MA  
Science Center: Woods Hole, MA

### Laboratories

Woods Hole, MA  
Narragansett, RI  
Milford, CT  
Highlands, NJ  
Washington, DC

## Northwest Region

Regional Office: Seattle, WA (Sand Point)  
Science Center: Seattle, WA (Montlake)

### Laboratories

Seattle, WA  
Newport, OR  
Kodiak, AK

## Southwest Region

Regional Office: Long Beach, CA  
Science Center: La Jolla, CA

### Laboratories

La Jolla, CA  
Santa Cruz, CA  
Pacific Grove, CA  
Honolulu, HI

## Southeast Region

Regional Office: St. Petersburg, FL  
Science Center: Miami, FL

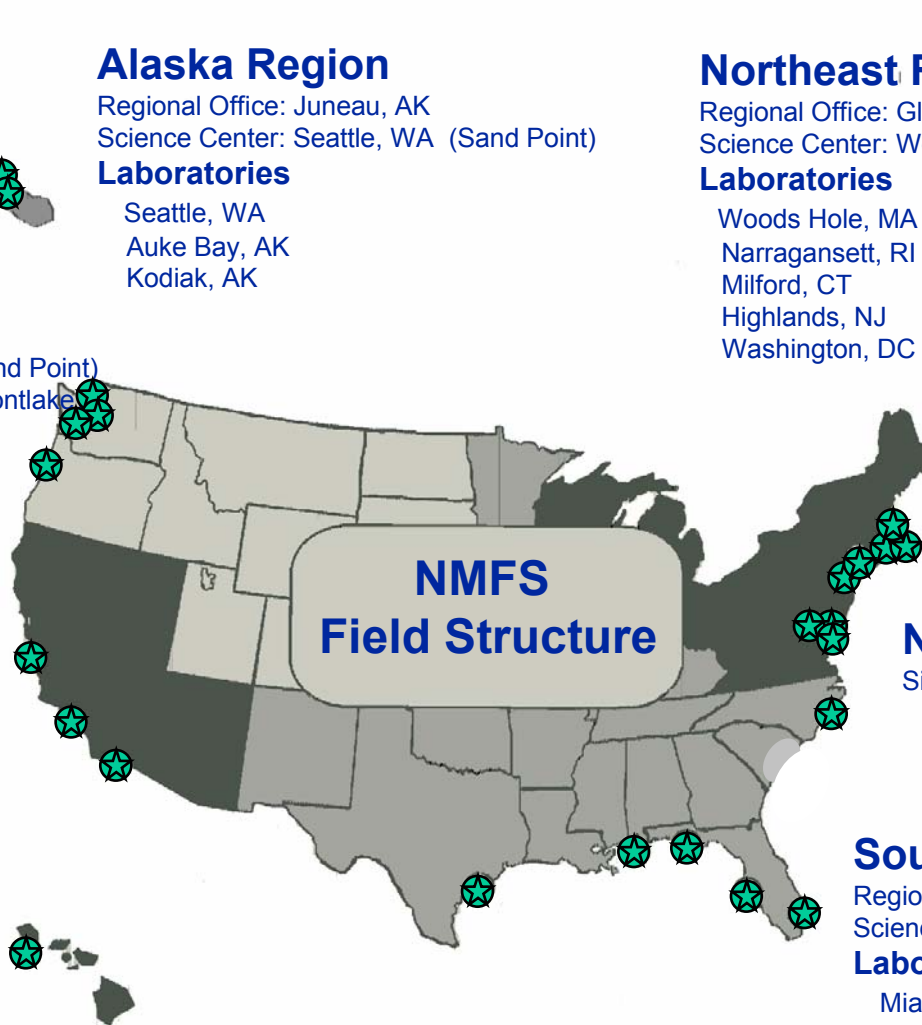
### Laboratories

Miami, FL  
Beaufort, NC  
Panama City, FL  
Pascagoula, MS  
Galveston, TX

**NMFS**  
**Field Structure**

## NMFS Headquarters

Silver Spring, MD





# Stewardship Authorities



- **Magnuson-Stevens Act (Sustainable Fisheries Act)**
- **Marine Mammal Protection Act**
- **Endangered Species Act**
- **National Environmental Policy Act**
- **Regulatory Flexibility Act**
- **Anadromous Fish Conservation Act**
- **Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act**
- **NOAA Fisheries Program Authorization Act**
- **Clean Water Act**
- **National Aquaculture Act**
- **And over 100 other Laws**





# **NOAA Fisheries**

## **Office of Sustainable Fisheries**





# **Mission**

## **Office of Sustainable Fisheries**



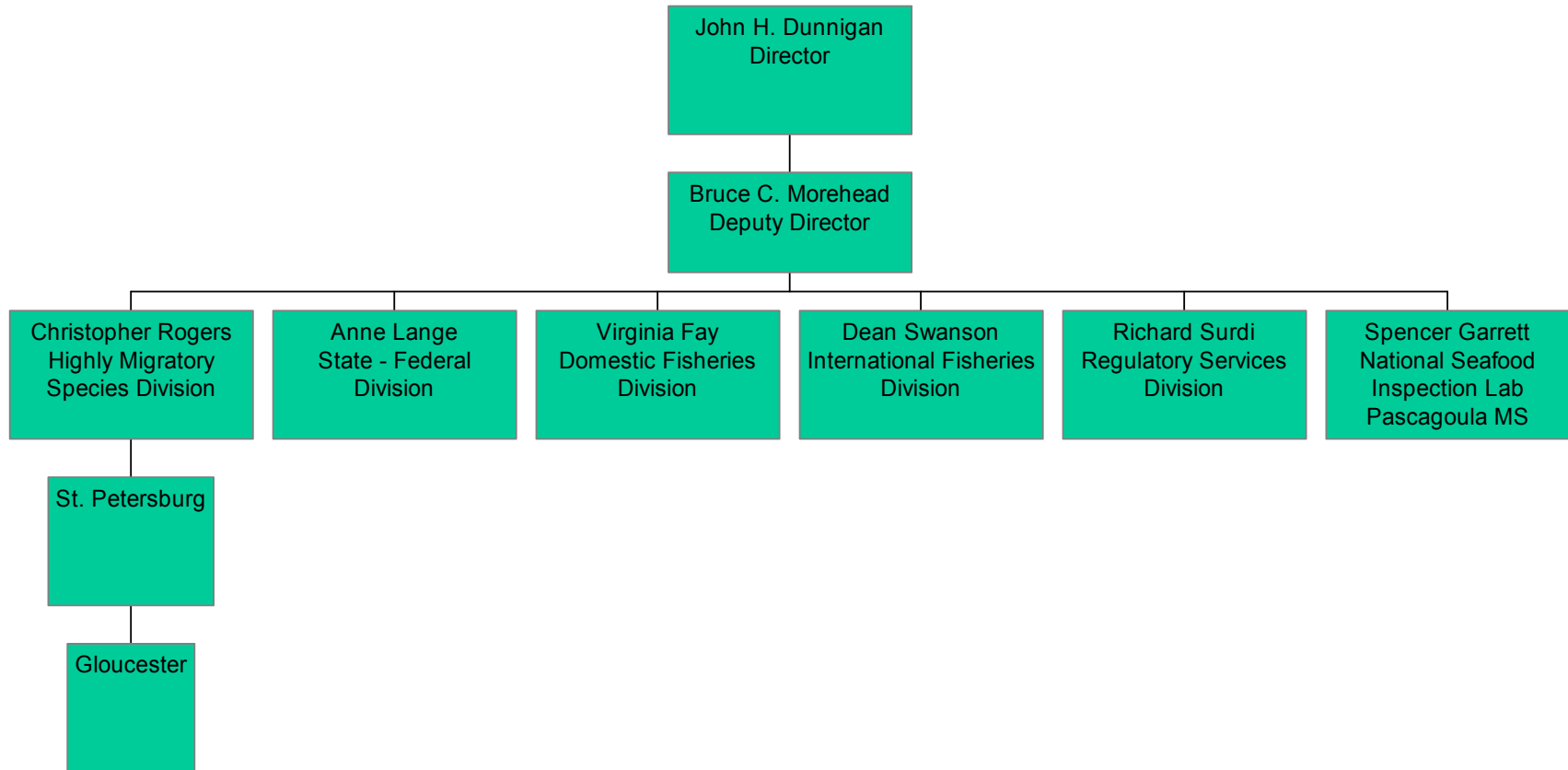
- **Maintain healthy stocks important to commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries.**
- **Eliminate overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks important to commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries.**
- **Increase long-term economic and social benefits to the nation from living marine resources.**
- **Promote the development of environmentally responsible and economically sound aquaculture.**





# Organization

## Office of Sustainable Fisheries







# Highly Migratory Species Division



- **Manages Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS): tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish**
- **Management of HMS requires international cooperation and rebuilding programs must reflect traditional participation in the fisheries by U.S. fishermen, relative to foreign fleets.**
- **Current Issues**
  - **Recreational monitoring: tunas, billfish, and swordfish bag limits.**
  - **Bluefin tuna allocation and stock assessment.**
  - **Sharks: small coastal rule, large coastal assessment/peer review.**
  - **Charter-head boat rule.**
  - **Turtle bycatch reduction**



# **State-Federal Fisheries Division**



- **Provides national policy and oversight for interjurisdictional program coordination among NMFS, three Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, coastal states, and island territories/commonwealths.**
- **Responsible for building cooperative partnerships with other interregional and fisheries management agencies through funding and oversight.**
- **Current Issues**
  - **Elevate State-Federal partnerships at the Regional and National levels.**
  - **Provide support to regional implementation of ACFCMA regulations.**
  - **Work with regional staff to identify fisheries that are most appropriate for management by States/Commissions, and initiate transfer of that responsibility.**



# **Domestic Fisheries Division**



- **Review and Coordinate fishery management actions**
- **Provide general guidance to Regional Offices and Fishery Management Councils.**
- **Manage fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**
- **Coordinate management with states and interstate and tribal commissions.**
- **Current Issues**
  - **Northwest and New England Groundfish Management**
  - **Minimizing bycatch**
  - **Streamlining the regulatory process**





# **International Fisheries Division**



- **Coordinates NMFS activities to build sustainable international fisheries**
- **Develops regional and global fisheries policies and promotes their implementation within the U.S.**
- **Supports U.S. participation in bilateral and multilateral for a such as FAO, APEC, and CITES.**
- **Maintains liaison with other governments.**
- **Prepares domestic legislation for the implementation of international living marine resource agreements.**
- **Current Issues**
  - **Renegotiating conservation agreements for all Atlantic tunas and billfish**
  - **Implementing Pacific albacore and whiting sharing agreements with Canada**



# Regulatory Services Division



- Supports management through the development and analysis of national fisheries legislation and policy.
- Provides oversight and guidance on activities to analyze the economic and social impacts associated with proposed management programs.
- Reviews and processes all documents to be published in the Federal Register.
- Provides oversight and guidance of the operations and administration of the Regional Fishery Management Councils, and conducts the annual Council nomination and appointment process.
- Current Issues
  - Report to FAO on U.S. Plan of Action to manage Fishing Capacity.
  - Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization.
  - Appointment of Regional Councils' Members.
  - Report to CEQ on Proposed Guidelines for Social Impact Assessment.

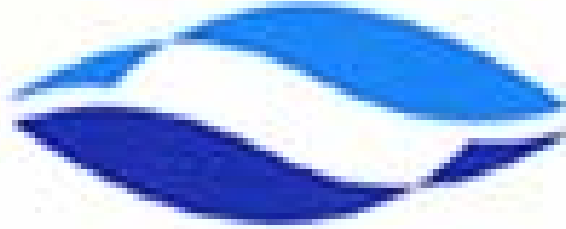


# Other Programs



- **National Seafood Inspection Laboratory**
  - Supports NMFS through studies in the analytical laboratory, data management, Regulatory Compliance Risk Analysis, and Information Transfer expertise to meet fishery management and seafood safety responsibilities.
- **Aquaculture Program**
  - Develops aquaculture policy and programs, coordinates aquaculture activities within NMFS, participates in interagency efforts, and provides liaison to external organizations and the public on policy and regulatory issues.





# **NOAA Fisheries**

## **Office of Protected Resources**





# **We Do More Than Just Fish**



## **Mission**

**“Conserving protected marine resources and  
maintaining marine biodiversity”**

- **Responsible for Implementing 3 Laws**
  - **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**
  - **Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)**
  - **International Whaling Convention Act (IWC)**
  - **Also . . . “minor” protected species laws, National Environmental Policy Act, etc . . .**
  - **Jurisdiction of ESA and MMPA shared with Fish and Wildlife Service**







# Marine Mammals



**144 Marine Mammal species  
fall under NMFS' MMPA  
responsibilities**

**11 species are listed as  
Endangered**

**Endangered: Whales (right, sperm, sei, humpback, blue, finback, bowhead), Hawaiian monk seal, Caribbean monk seal, Steller sea lion\***

**Threatened: Guadalupe fur seal**





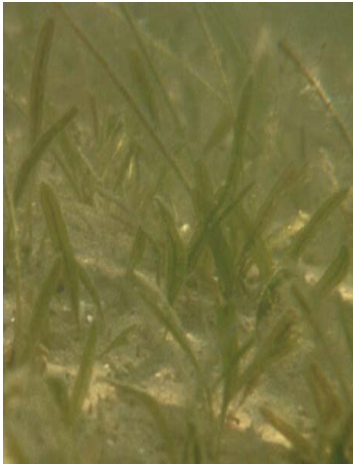
# Turtles, Plants, Invertebrates



## **Marine Turtles: 6 species**

**Endangered:** leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill

**Threatened:** loggerhead, green turtle\*, olive ridley\* (\*indicates certain components of the population listed as endangered)



## **Marine Plants: 1 species**

**Threatened:** Johnson's seagrass

## **Marine Invertebrates: 1 species**

**Endangered:** White abalone



# Fish



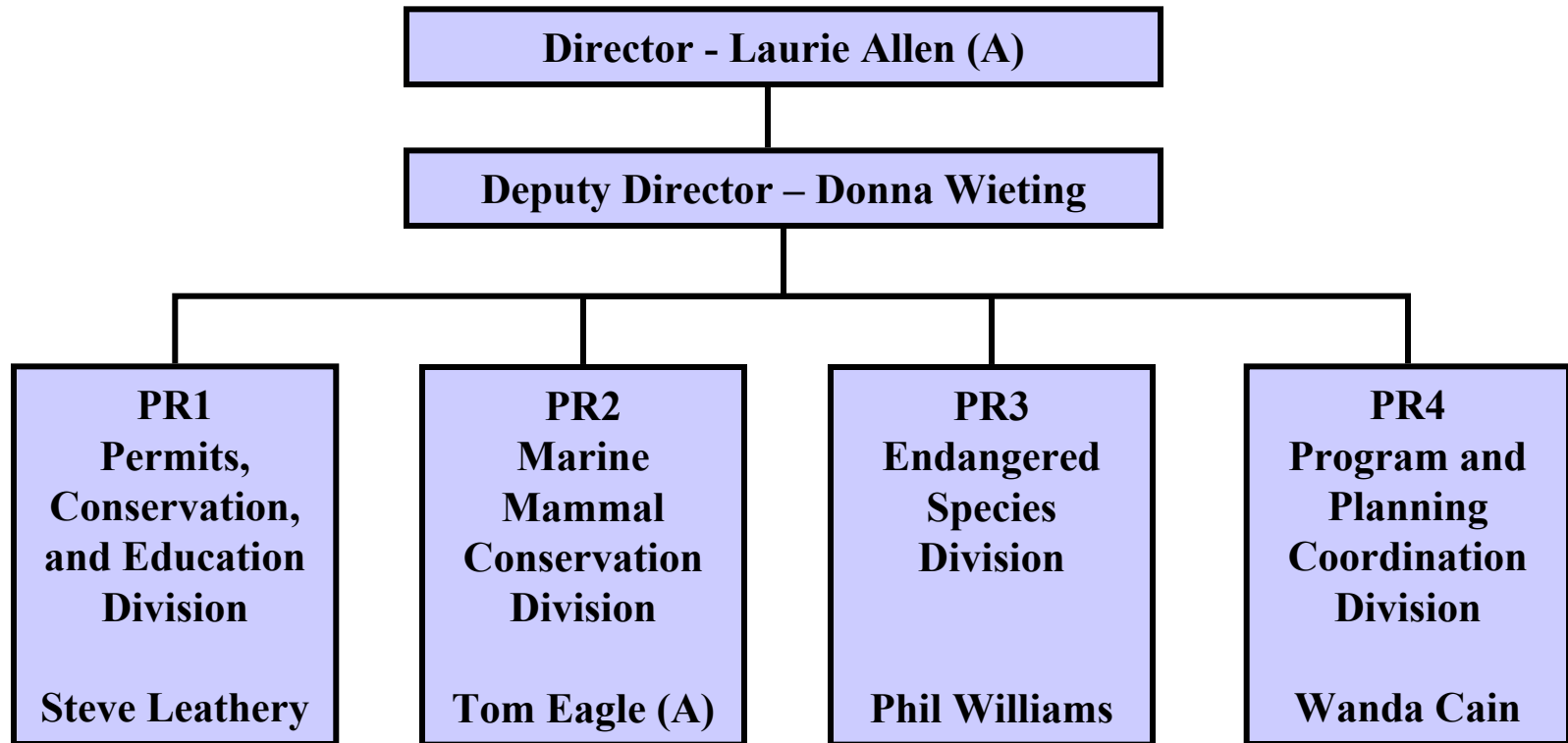
**Fishes: 9 Species (25 ESU's  
for 5 Pacific salmon species)**

**Endangered:** shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic salmon, upper Columbia spring and Sacramento River winter-run chinook, Snake River sockeye, southern California and upper Columbia River steelhead

**Threatened:** Gulf sturgeon, chum salmon, coho salmon, chinook salmon, sockeye salmon, steelhead



# PR Organization





# Permits, Conservation, and Education Division



- **The ESA and MMPA prohibit "take."**
  - harass, hunt, capture, collect, or kill or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, collect, or kill any marine mammal”
  - What is harassment?
- **The ESA and MMPA permit certain activities, that would otherwise be prohibited (“takings”), to be conducted with a permit or authorization issued**
- **Permit/authorization may be issued for:**
  - Scientific research or to enhance survival or recovery
  - Commercial/educational photography
  - Import for public display
  - Import/export





# **Marine Mammal Conservation Division**

## **(Marine Mammal Mortality Division)**



- **The MMPA . . .**
  - Includes exceptions to the take prohibition
  - Requires NMFS to maintain marine mammals at or above optimum sustainable population
  - Requires regular assessment of marine mammal stocks
  - Requires development of Conservation Plans for depleted species and Take Reduction Plans for strategic stocks interacting with fisheries.
- **PR2 manages the incidental and subsistence “take” that is permitted under the MMPA**
  - Entanglement or capture in fishing gear
  - Ship strikes
  - Noise, including navy exercises (sonar)
  - Oil and gas drilling (and other seismic ocean activities)
  - Native hunting
- **Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response**
- **International coordination (IWC, CITES, tuna-dolphin)**



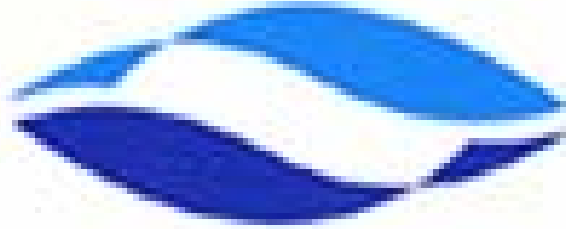


# Endangered Species Division



- **Implements the ESA for marine species**
  - **Requires listing determinations and development and implementation of recovery plans for endangered or threatened species and review of species status**
  - **Requires interagency consultation to ensure that federal activities avoid jeopardy to endangered or threatened species and destruction or adverse modification to their critical habitat**
  - **Prohibits take or trade of endangered or threatened species**
- **ESA is the “last stand” for an animal – when everything else has failed**



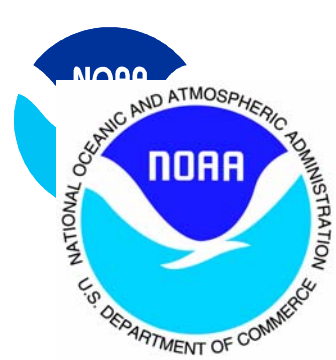


# **NOAA Fisheries**

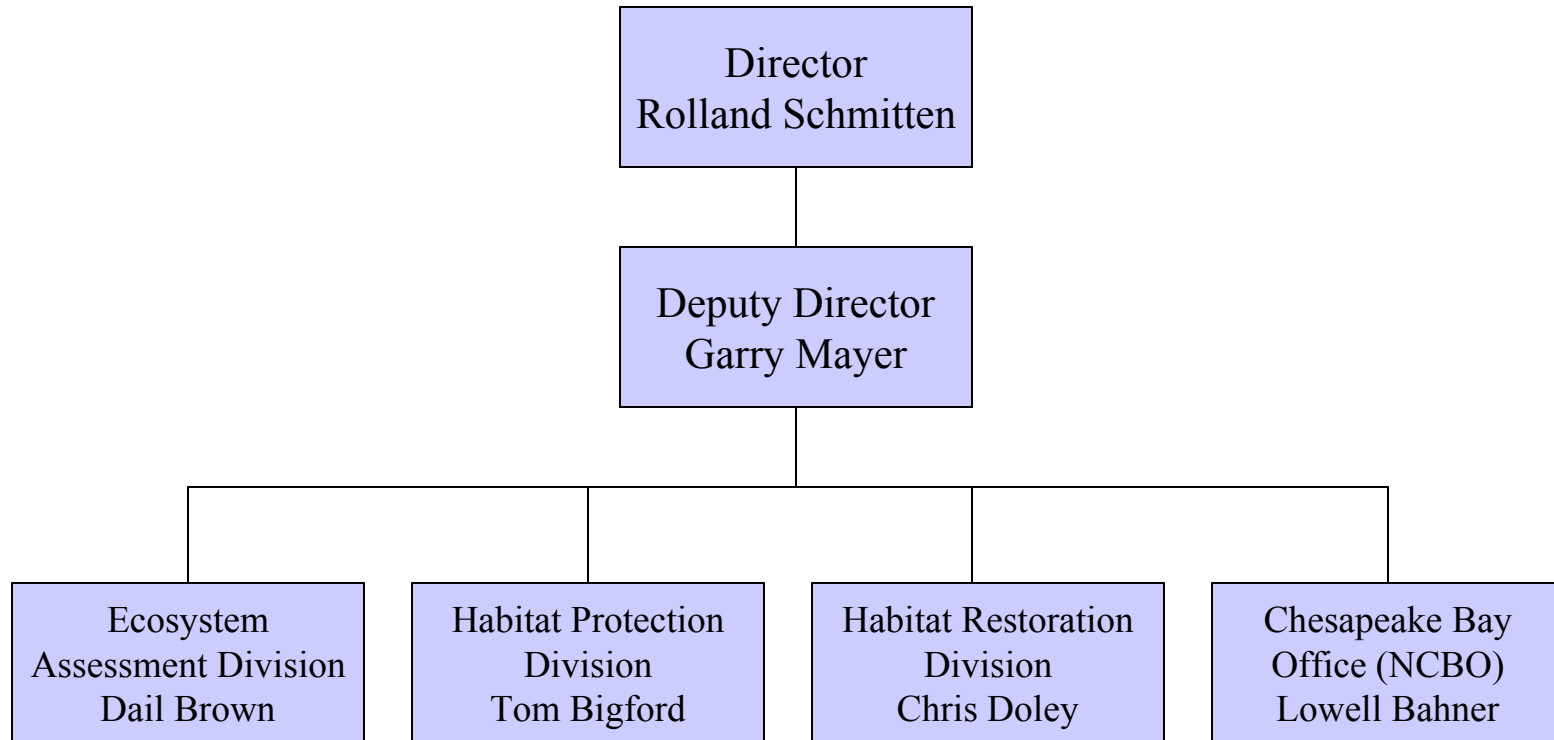
## **Office of Habitat Conservation**







# Office of Habitat Conservation

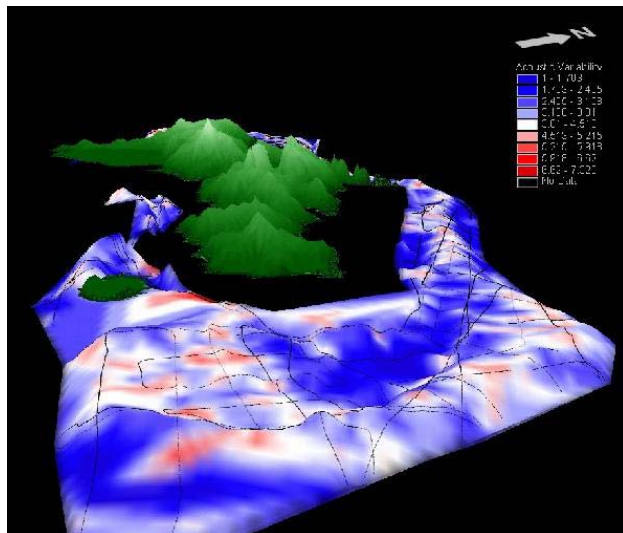




## Ecosystem Assessment Division

- NOAA Fisheries Coral Reef Conservation Program
- Marine and Estuarine Biodiversity
- Classification Standard for Marine and Estuarine Habitats

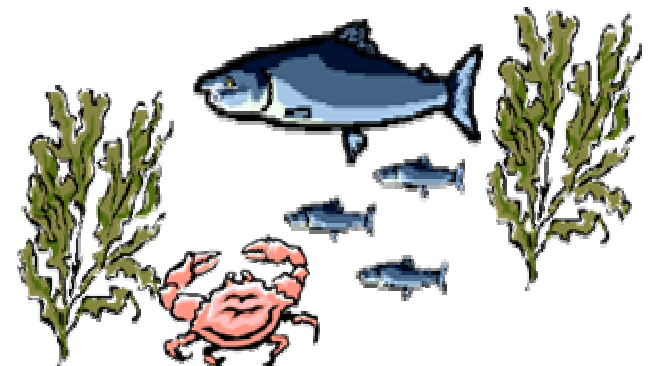
Benthic Mapping In American Samoa



# Habitat Protection Division

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- Wetlands
  - National wetlands policy
  - Interagency coordination
  - Technical assistance
  - Education and outreach
- Anadromous Fish
  - Fish passage
  - Hydropower licensing policy
  - Interagency coordination
- Essential Fish Habitat
  - Effects of fishing on habitat
  - Consultation regarding non-fishing threats
  - Refining the designation of EFH
- Marine Policy
  - Marine Protected Areas
  - Commission on Ocean Policy
  - Marine Transportation





## **Damage Assessment and Restoration Program (DARP)**

- ◆ Oil Spills
- ◆ Release of Hazardous Materials
- ◆ Ship Groundings

## **Community-based Restoration Program**

- ◆ Partnerships (Public and Private)
- ◆ Volunteers, restoration efforts at grass-roots level
- ◆ Leverages expertise and funds

## **Regional Habitat Restoration**

- ◆ Fisheries habitat restoration on an ecosystem-scale
- ◆ National, regional, state and local partnerships
- ◆ Strategic Planning
- ◆ GIS mapping

## **Restoration Research Program**

- ◆ Developing new tools, techniques and methods



## Major activities:

- **Chesapeake Bay stock assessments**
- **Chesapeake Bay environmental effects**
- **Habitat protection and restoration**
- **Environmental education**
- **Coastal predictions**
- **Information management**





# **NOAA Fisheries**

## **Office of Science & Technology**





# Mission and Goals



- **Ensure integrity, quality, and credibility of NMFS science**
- **Develop and implement NMFS long-term science strategy, including modernization of fisheries science**
- **Advocate sound science infrastructure**
- **Improve the information basis for fisheries management; fisheries observing systems**
- **Provide NMFS lead for international fisheries science issues**





# Management Approach

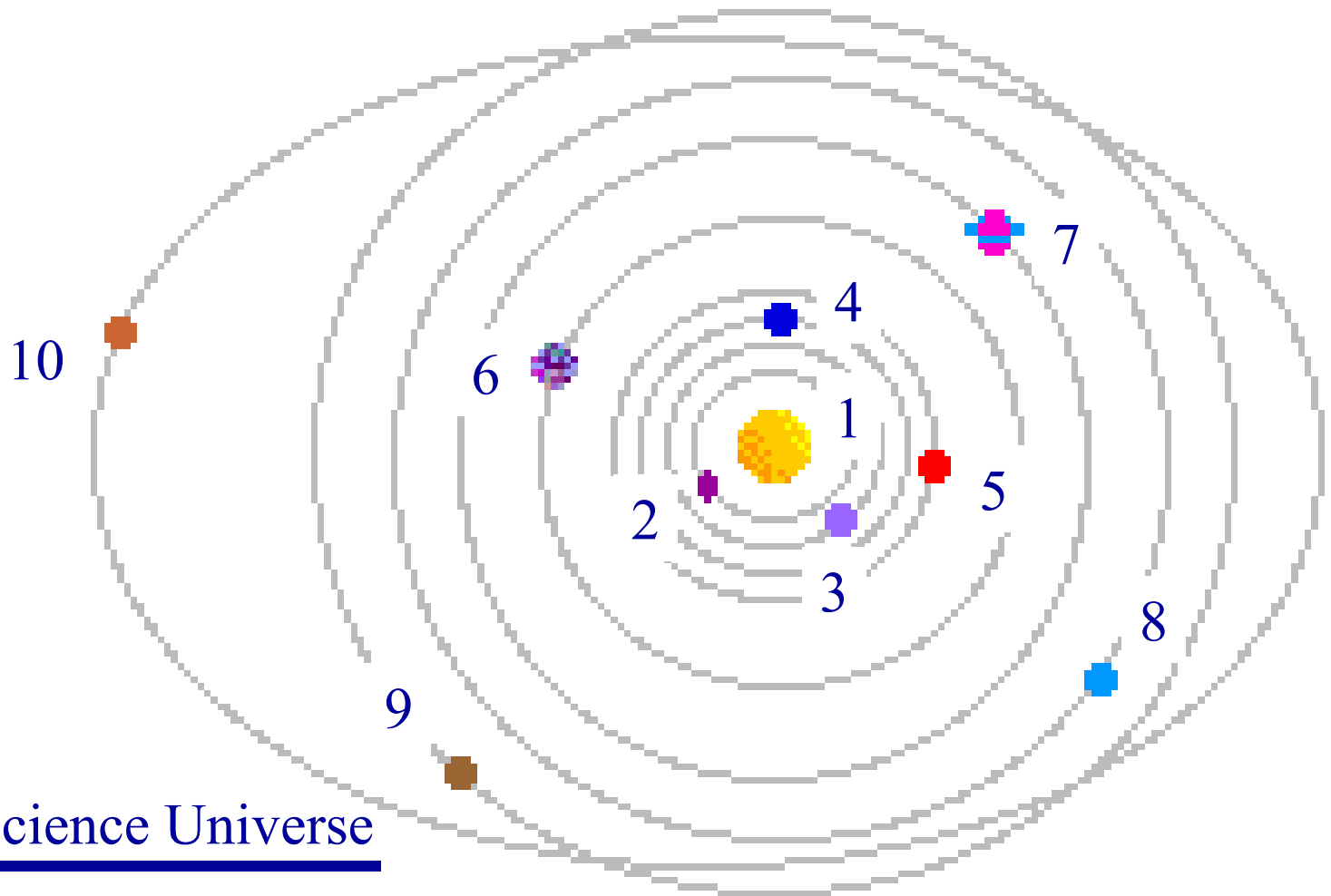


- **Core of experienced scientific staff works to address national program needs by leading and coordinating projects to improve NMFS science, and providing liaison between clients and scientists.**
- **In some cases the staff also provides operational program management, such as with FRV acquisition, fisheries statistics data collection, and scientific publications.**





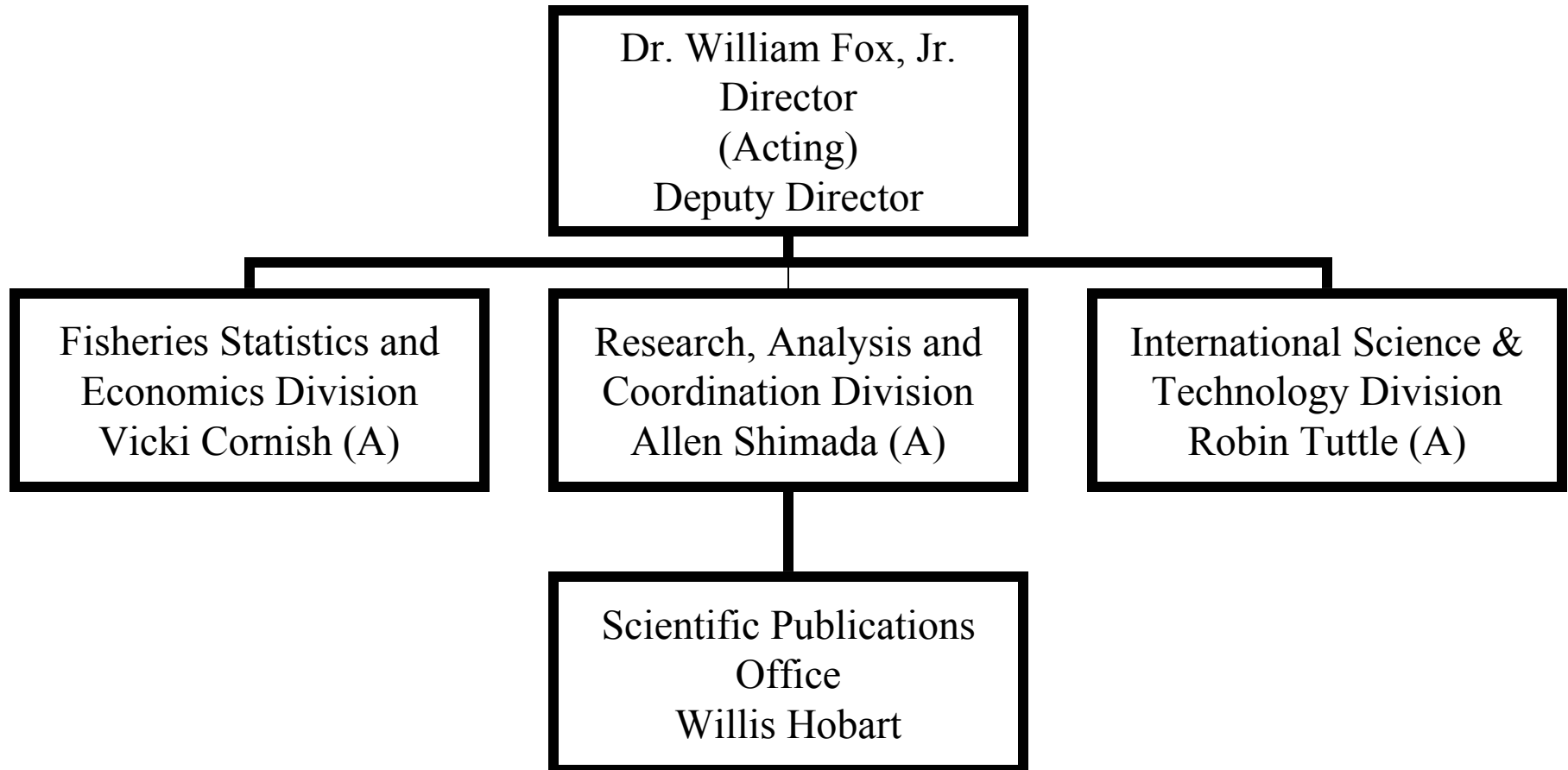
- 1 Office of Science & Technology
- 2 Fisheries Science Centers
- 3 Regions
- 4 HQ Offices and Los
- 5 External Science Partners
- 6 NOAA
- 7 DOC
- 8 OMB
- 9 Congress
- 10 All Else



Org Chart of Science Universe



# Science and Technology Organization



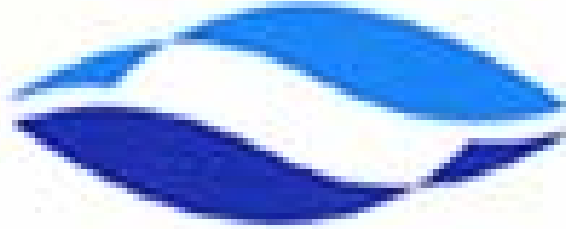


# Core Activities



- **Science Quality Assurance**
- **Stock Assessment Improvement**
- **Economic and Social Science Research**
- **Fisheries Research Vessels**
- **Fisheries Statistics**
- **National Observer Program**
- **National Cooperative Research Program**
- **International Science Activities**
- **Science Coordination, Communication Advocacy**





# **NOAA Fisheries**

## **Field Offices**





# Life in the NMFS Field...

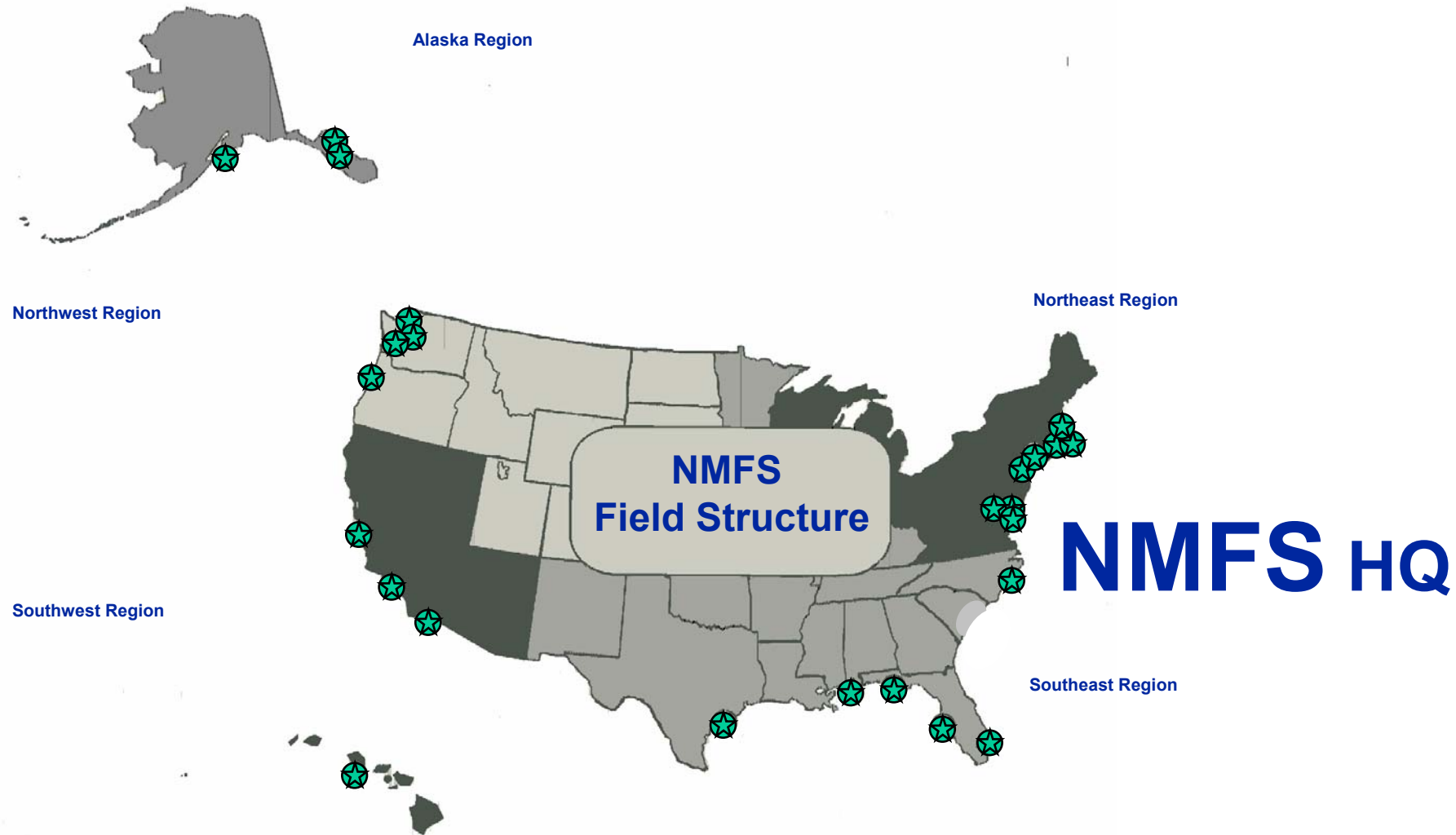


- **What's your perspective: Whose side are you on?**
  - Regional Office
  - Science Center
  - Headquarters
- **Challenges**
  - Communication
  - Perceptions vs. Reality
- **Can't we all just get along?**





# Headquarters View of the World





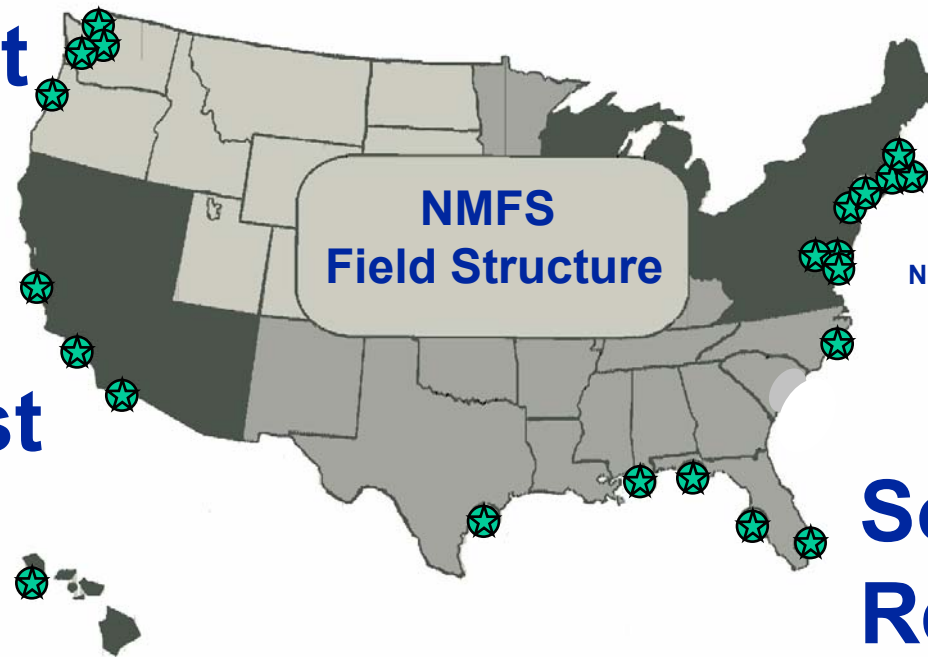
# Regional View of the World

## Alaska Region



## Northwest Region

## Southwest Region



## Northeast Region

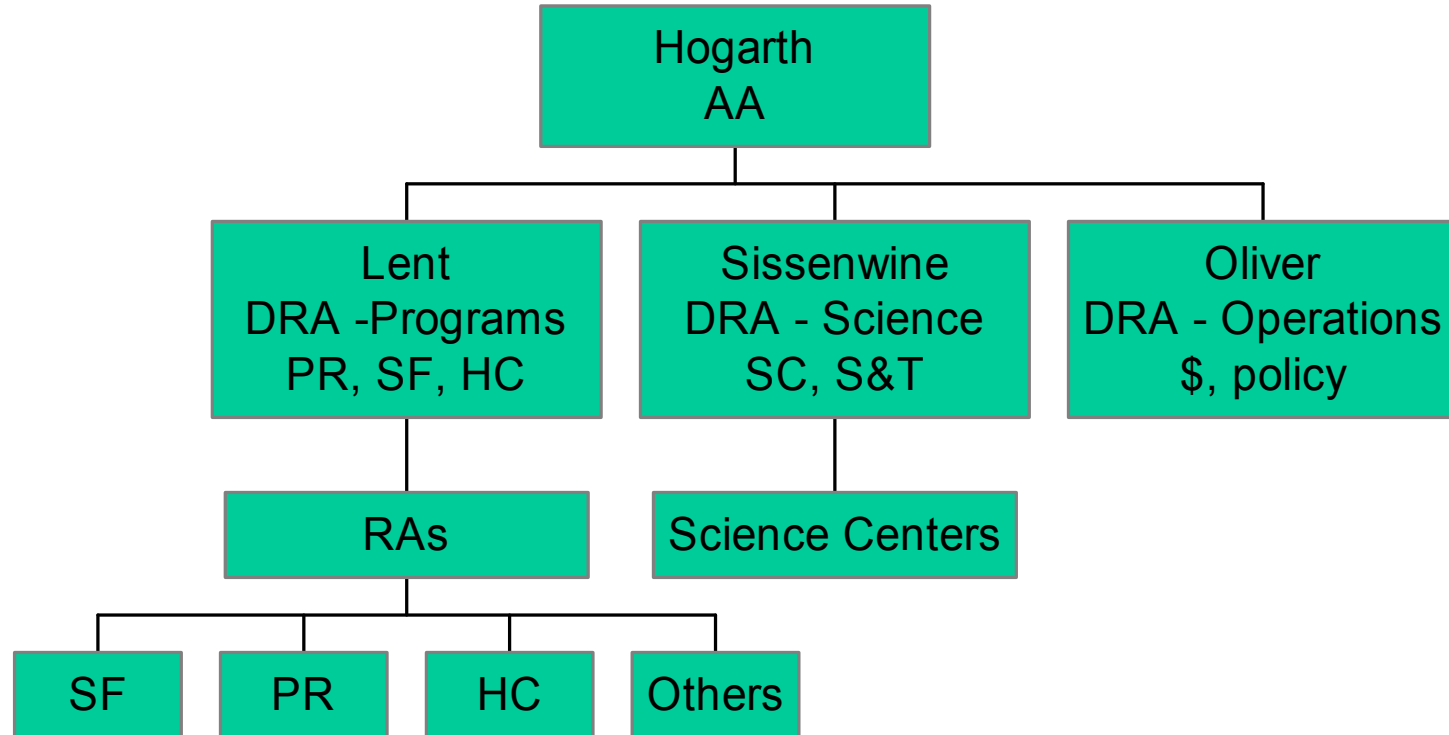
## Southeast Region

NMFS HQ





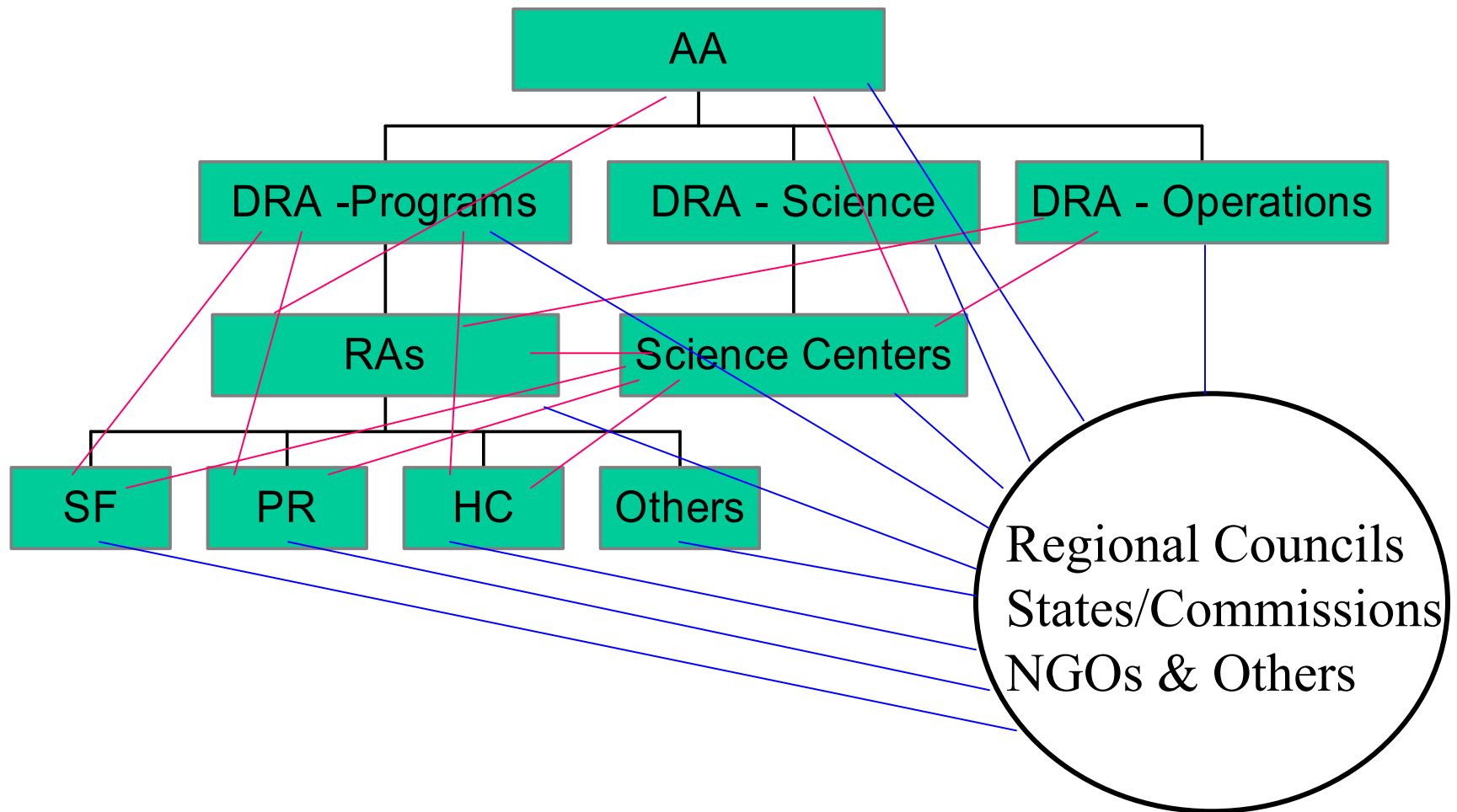
# Idealized HQ-Region Communication Structure







# “Lines” of Communication: Reality Check





# Challenges to Life in the Field



- **Communication**
  - Regional Office and Science Centers
  - HQ and Field
  - Division
- **Competing Resources (\$ and FTE)**
- **Identification of responsibilities... “ok, so who is going to do this?”**





# **Perception or Reality?**

## **Recognizing Cultural Differences**



### **Regional View**

- **Program driven**
- **Pressure point: constituents reacting to HQ decisions**
- **HQ is mired in politics and sets ever-changing policies (\$)**
- **Reactive – “HQ dumps it all on us”**
- **Feels stymied by the process**

### **HQ View**

- **Sets policy**
- **Pressure point: Political-respond to “fires”**
- **Regions don’t understand “politics”**
- **Reactive – feel like just “spinning my wheels”**
- **Feels stymied by the process**



# **Whose Job Is It to Do That????**

## **Or When Management and Science Collide**



- **Science Centers (report to DAA for Science)**
  - Research and Science Issues
  - Wide range of scientific responsibilities from Coral Reefs to Marine Mammals
  - Provide scientific support for management
- **Regional Office (report to DAA Programs)**
  - Implementation of policy and programs
  - Primary interface with Councils
  - Need science for good management decisions





# Breaking the Cultural Barriers...



- **LCDP Challenge...we are part of the solution**
- **Communication – “walk a mile in HQ/Regional or Management/Science shoes”...**
  - **LCDP**
  - **Rotational Assignments (HQ –Regions; Centers-Regional Offices; Line Offices; Divisions, etc.)**
- **Become more proactive rather than only reactive**
- **Must become an Agency-wide priority/commitment ...good communication and proactive activities = \$\$\$\$**

